



CSI Staff and Partners



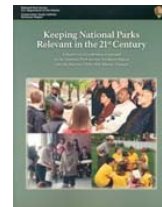
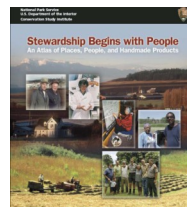
(from left to right)
Mea Arego, Nora Mitchell, Daniel Laven, Liesbeth Neisingh,
Virginia Farley, Jackie Tuxill, Delia Clark, and Leslie Shahi

Working in Partnership

Partnerships are the cornerstone of the Institute. The Institute collaborates with others to capitalize on various perspectives on conservation from the National Park Service and other government agencies, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations. This partnership network shapes relevant programs and creates opportunities to implement programs in cooperation with a diverse array of partners. Through collaboration, the Institute ensures that its programs examine the most challenging current issues and draw on contemporary experience and state-of-the-art thinking within the National Park Service and the broader conservation community.

For additional information:
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CSI Publications

Conservation and Stewardship Series
(pdf versions are available at: www.nps.gov/csi)

No. 16 — *Stronger Together: A Manual on the Principles and Practices of Civic Engagement*, 2009

No. 15 — *Shared Legacies in Cane River National Heritage Area: Linking People, Traditions, and Landscapes*. A Technical Assistance Report for the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission, 2008

No. 14 — *Stewardship Begins with People: An Atlas of Places, People, and Handmade Products*, 2007

No. 13 — *Scholars Forum, The National Park Service and Civic Reflection: A Summary Report*, 2006

No. 12 — *Working Together for a Common Future: The Community-Public Land Regional Handbook*, 2006

No. 11 — *Learning to be Better Neighbors: Case Studies in Civic Engagement Between National Parks and Neighboring Communities*, 2006

No. 10 — *Opportunities for Communities that Neighbor Public Lands*, 2006

No. 9 — *Connecting Stories, Landscapes, and People: Exploring the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Partnership*, 2006

No. 8 — *Keeping National Parks Relevant in the 21st Century*, 2006

No. 7 — *Reflecting on the Past, Looking to the Future: Sustainability Study Report*. A Technical Assistance Report to the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, 2005

No. 6 — *Collaboration and Conservation: Lessons Learned from National Park Service Partnership Areas in the Western United States*, 2004



The Institute is based at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park and works with the park to tell the story of conservation and the emergence of a stewardship ethic.



CONSERVATION STUDY INSTITUTE



Advancing innovation in collaborative conservation for the stewardship of our national system of parks and landscape scale conservation.

The National Park Service established the Conservation Study Institute to help the agency and its partners stay in touch with the evolving field of conservation, and to develop more sophisticated partnerships, new tools for community engagement, and new strategies for the 21st century.

The Institute is dedicated to assisting the National Park Service and its partners in becoming increasingly effective and creative in meeting new challenges, and more open and responsive leaders in building collaboration and commitment for the stewardship of our national system of parks and special places.

Collaborative Conservation

Institute programs in collaborative conservation connect the National Park Service to the larger world of conservation. Our diverse portfolio creates opportunities to identify and share best practices, reflect on lessons learned, exchange leadership experience, and maintain a dialogue on the best thinking and practice in the evolving field of conservation.



Collaborative conservation creates sustainable stewardship of national parks and other places of natural and cultural heritage through broad-based partnerships, community engagement, and cooperative leadership, to build a vision for the future.

The Institute provides opportunities to think more deeply about our role in conservation-both within and outside of park boundaries-and to think about our responsibilities for engaging the public in ways that perhaps we haven't done before.

I would call it the National Park Service's think tank. They provide the opportunity for the Park Service to look at its practice in leadership, partnership, and collaboration. They bring deeper understanding and advance best practices.

- Institute Program Participants

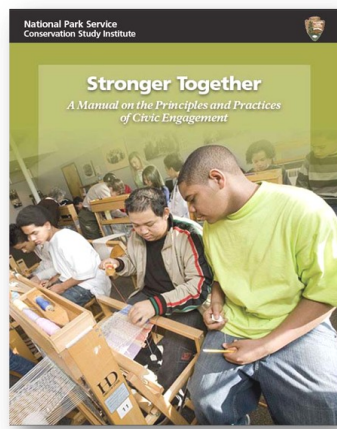


CONSERVATION STUDY INSTITUTE PROGRAMS

The Institute provides technical assistance to parks, heritage areas, and regional and national programs by conducting demonstration projects, distilling and sharing lessons learned, and building networks for information exchange. A diversity of programs creates opportunities to identify and share best practices, reflect on lessons learned, exchange leadership experience, and maintain a dialogue on the best thinking and practice in the evolving field of conservation. Institute programs help the National Park Service and its partners in collaborative conservation become more effective and creative in advancing the stewardship of our national system of parks and special places.

Researching Best Practices for 21st Century Relevancy

Engaging an increasingly diverse population is critical to the future of our national system of parks and special places. The Institute, the Northeast Region Office of Interpretation and Education, and the University of Vermont together are sponsoring research through a doctoral fellowship project to identify best practices for engaging new diverse audiences.



Engaging Community & Youth

The Institute, working with the Northeast Region Office of Interpretation and Education, and partners completed a web-based civic engagement manual, *Stronger Together: A Manual on the Principles and Practices of Civic Engagement*. The manual includes a variety of case studies and guidelines for best practices in civic engagement.

The Institute is also developing evaluation programs to support engaging young adults in sustainability and conservation related careers.

Evaluating & Replicating Place-based Education Programs

In partnership with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP, Green Mountain National Forest, Shelburne Farms and Northeast Office of National Wildlife Federation, the Institute participates in a place-based education evaluation collaborative to evaluate and support replication of programs such as *A Forest For Every Classroom*.

A Place-Based Professional Development Workshop Series

**A FOREST
FOR EVERY
CLASSROOM**

Learning to Make Choices for the Future



Exchanging Leadership Experience

The Superintendents' Leadership Roundtable is a national program managed by the institute that enhances the capacity of the National Park Service to seize leadership opportunities and meet the challenges associated with increasing complexity of park management. The Leadership Roundtable program, creates a national network of NPS leaders better able to negotiate complicated issues, embrace innovation, and build the commitment of a diverse public for the stewardship of our national system of parks into the next century.

This on-going leadership development experience provides peers with an opportunity to participate in facilitated discussions about contemporary challenges and their responsibilities as leaders. Participating superintendents report they are better able to lead change, mentor their employees, create a positive organizational climate, negotiate complex park issues, and build durable partnerships with diverse publics for the stewardship of national parks.



The Roundtable is one of the most valuable developmental opportunities I've had in my career: the chance to come together with other superintendents from across the country who face a wide range of issues...the value of being able to share what we're doing and coach each other is incalculable and highly rewarding.

— NPS Superintendent

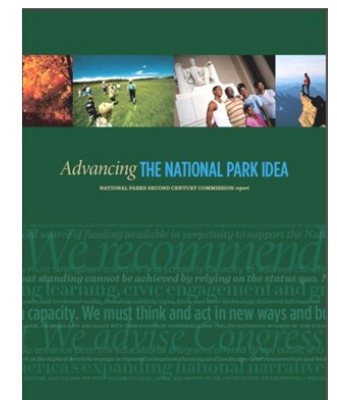
Exploring the Role of Partnership Networks for Landscape Scale Conservation

The Institute is participating in policy dialogues on developing a national framework for landscape scale conservation. This effort engages a broad cross-section of organizations and seeks to promote a national alliance to promote and support large-scale conservation initiatives.



Sharing Best Practices for Working Landscapes

The Institute shares innovation and best practices through a network of park managers, resource managers, educators, nonprofit organizations, cooperating associations, and concession specialists for continued cooperation among parks, non-profit organizations, cooperating associations, concessioners, and producers. This network exchanges information on stewardship practices and authentic local products that enhance the sustainability of park landscapes in a regional context.



Advancing the National Park Idea
A Report from the National Parks Second Century Commission
(Quoted from pg 34)

Developing Leadership for Change

Effective leaders enlist the hearts and minds of employees and associates, create a shared vision of the future, motivate others to work toward it, and clear roadblocks from their paths.

We recommend that the Park Service establish an institute to guide leadership development and evaluate what works. The existing Superintendents' Leadership Roundtable, managed by the Park Service's Conservation Study Institute, models what such an initiative should accomplish. This program has created a national network of managers who report they are better able to negotiate complicated issues, lead change, mentor their employees, and build partnerships with diverse publics.